



# Treatment Court Facts

## Drug Courts Coordinating Commission

### Commission Members

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### Problems Treatment Courts Can Help Address

- In 2011, Missouri led the nation with 2,058 meth-lab incidents.
- There were 18,086 persons admitted into the Missouri state prisons in fiscal 2011. Of these, 6,686 had drug or DWI convictions.
- During fiscal 2011, there were 2,609 children removed from their homes as a result of parental drug or alcohol use.

### Why Treatment Courts?

- They are a proven cost-effective method for diverting offenders from incarceration in prisons.
- Treatment courts lower the recidivism rate of offenders when compared to either incarceration or probation.
- They allow offenders to remain in their communities, to support their families and to pay taxes.
- Treatment courts reduce the number of infants exposed to drugs or alcohol.
- They reduce crime and the need for foster care, and they help ensure that child support payments are made.

### Current Status of Treatment Courts in Missouri

- As of September 31, 2012, there were 136 treatment court programs. Of these, 89 are adult drug courts, 12 are juvenile drug courts, 12 are family drug courts, 19 are DWI courts, one is a reintegration court, and three are veterans treatment courts.
- The programs have more than 3,500 active participants.
- Since their inception, Missouri treatment courts have had more than 12,000 graduates.
- Since treatment courts began, 574 drug-free babies have been born to treatment court participants.
- The graduation rate for all programs exceeds 50 percent.
- The retention rate for all programs exceeds 60 percent.
- In fiscal 2012, the state's treatment court programs requested more than \$14 million in funding, while the commission was given \$6 million to spend.

### Helping Veterans in Need

- Veterans treatment courts are hybrid drug and mental health courts that use the drug court model to serve veterans struggling with addiction, serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders.
- Jackson County, the city of St. Louis and the southeast Missouri regional veterans treatment court, which serves eight counties in southeast Missouri, are currently operational. Five other veterans treatment courts are in the planning stages.

### Return on Investment in Drug Courts

- Incarceration: Potential incarceration cost savings or cost avoidance for 3,000 adult offenders diverted from state prisons is about \$50 million. Fiscal 2012 incarceration costs are \$22,852 per year per person, and treatment courts costs are \$6,190 per year per person.
- Probation: Initially, drug courts are more expensive than regular probation. However, due to the higher recidivism rate for probation, savings result in the second year. Based on a city of St. Louis cost-benefit analysis, after two years, the state gains \$2.80 for each \$1 spent on drug courts. After four years, the state gains \$6.32 for each \$1 spent on drug courts.
- Foster Care: Potential foster care savings for 313 family drug court participants are nearly \$500,000. Foster care costs \$7,773 per year per child.
- Youth Services: In fiscal 2010, potential youth services savings for 127 juvenile offenders are about \$6 million. Youth services cost \$53,032 per year per youth.

### Missouri's Commitment to Treatment Courts

- 2013 will mark the 20th anniversary of treatment courts in Missouri – the first treatment court started in 1993 in Jackson County. Missouri has more treatment courts per capita than any other state in the nation.
- This achievement is credited to 2001 legislation that created the Drug Courts Coordinating Commission and the drug court resources fund to help ensure the coordination and allocation of treatment court funding.
- In 2010, Missouri became one of the first states that passed legislation to establish DWI courts. This legislation also allows for limited driving privileges to be granted by a drug or DWI court judge or commissioner.
- Missouri has granted more than 300 limited driving privileges to individuals who are supervised closely by the court and monitored with an ignition interlock device to protect against future impaired driving.
- Missouri is a national leader in drug courts, having three mentor courts that exhibit exemplary practices to serve as educational training sites for other drug courts across the nation. Boone County serves as a mentor court for adult drug courts, Greene County is a mentor court for DWI courts and Jackson County serves as a mentor court for family drug courts.